

ORC Racing News

Safety, Security, Growth and Integrity

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Our office has received several inquiries about recently sent out letters from XpressBet. The letters indicate that wagering with them is now legal in Michigan. This is **ABSOLUTELY FALSE**. The Horse Racing Law states that wagering in Michigan on pari-mutuel horse racing can only occur at a licensed race track. No change to this statute has been made nor has an order issued that would cancel this out. The ORC along with the Attorney General's Office is investigating this matter fully. Wagering through XpressBet or any other internet or telephone company remains an illegal activity in Michigan and anyone found doing so, will be prosecuted according to the law. Please take precaution when receiving information from companies such as XpressBet that claim a change to the law without an executive order from the Office of Racing Commissioner.

STRANGLES

Strangles, or equine distemper, is an upper respiratory infection caused by a bacterium. It is a contagious disease that affects horses. Symptoms include fever, nasal discharge and swollen lymph nodes around the neck and face. Horses with strangles may have a loss in appetite.

There was a recent outbreak at Northfield Park in Ohio with seven horses being confirmed with the disease. These horses were quarantined and the horses stalled next to them were also isolated. Although strangles is not a reportable disease here in Michigan, the ORC still recommends that you take precautions such as disinfecting equipment, water buckets and stalls before allowing another horse to use the items.



STATE BUDGET

Discussions have begun in the House of Representatives regarding the 2009 Fiscal Year Budget. Commissioner White will answer questions at the Agriculture Committee meeting on February 27th. During a recent Committee meeting, Chairman Espinosa expressed his desire to have a final budget by mid-March.



MEET OUR NEWEST STEWARD

We are pleased to welcome Robert Coberley to our ORC family. Bob is our newest steward at Northville Downs. He has been involved in harness racing in one way or another for the

past 30 plus years. Bob was licensed as an owner, trainer and/or driver in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Ontario up until 1990 and owned harness horses up until 2004. Bob makes his primary living as the owner of Bedford Construction Company and lives in Lambertville. He received his



accreditation as an Associate Harness Judge in 2007. If you have not done so, please stop by and welcome Bob to Michigan racing.

UPDATED ORC FORMS ON THE WEB AND IN OUR OFFICES

One of the major tasks we are tackling this year is reviewing, amending and updating the ORC forms. This is a slow moving process but as we update various forms, we will post them on our website and make them available at our track offices. We recently posted the new stable rosters on the website and are using up the final reams of the old version at the offices. Please remember to fill these out completely and accurately. If there is a change in any of the information listed on the stable roster such as owners, horses trained, contact information, grooms, etc., you must note that change with our office records within 48 hours of the time the actual change occurs. Look for new veterinarian forms on the website and be sure to inform your vet that our forms have been updated.



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www.foursightcreative.com

TRIVIA TIME

1. What track opened its doors in 1944?
2. Name the horse that won the first race at the State Fairgrounds on September 2, 1933.
3. Who was the first woman, a Michigander, to be inducted into the Thoroughbred Hall of Fame?
4. Michigan is the only state east of the Mississippi to offer this. What is it?
5. In what year did the first full-card simulcast take place in Michigan?

Email your answers to bennettL@michigan.gov to be entered into a prize drawing. The winner will be announced in the next e-newsletter.

REMINDER FROM OUR STEWARDS

Please keep your EHV certificates up to date. You will not be allowed to race or even let on the track grounds if you do not have the correct paperwork. This is for the health and safety of all the horses - including yours.



PINNACLE RACEWAY

We understand that many of you have a list of questions regarding Post It Stables, Inc.'s track license application. As of February 1, the ORC has a complete application and while being aware of time constraints on the project, we are reviewing the application thoroughly. The Commissioner has met with representatives from the company to discuss clarifications to certain matters within the application.



COLD WEATHER REMINDERS TO KEEP YOUR HORSE HEALTHY

- .. Horses are fine outside in the cold
- .. Give them access to shelter from wind, sleet and storms
- .. Shelter or blanketing will keep the horse's coat dry
- .. Always keep clean, fresh water available
- .. Provide extra forage to meet the horse's increased energy and nutrient needs



STALLION EXPO AND AWARDS

Don't forget to come out to the Michigan Horse Council's annual Stallion Expo. The Expo will be held on March 7, 8, and 9th at the MSU Pavilion in East Lansing. The ORC and all of the Michigan horse racing associations will have a combined booth. The Horse of the Year awards will be presented on Saturday, the 8th at 1:45 pm. You don't want to miss it! For more information visit www.michiganhorsecouncil.com.